

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 082072

63

ORIGIN ARA-10

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ARA/NC/V - MR. SONANDRES

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R 060146Z APR 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG VE

SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS MEETING WITH
GENERAL ALFONZO OF PETROVEN

1. IN TRANSIT THROUGH US EN ROUTE BACK TO CARACAS, GENERAL ALFONZO MET BRIEFLY ON APRIL 2 WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS.
 2. AT ROGERS INITIATIVE, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FIGURED IMPORTANTLY IN CONVERSATION, WITH GENERAL ALFONZO ASSERTING SUITABILITY OF PETROLEUM INDUSTRY FOR SUCH TRANSFER AND UTILITY OF ESTABLISHING HYDROCARBON ENERGY RESEARCH CENTER IN CARACAS. SAW USG ROLE IN PROVIDING MANAGERIAL EXPERTISE INPUT FOR LATTER. HE PROMISED THINK FURTHER ON SUBJECT, DISCUSS IN CARACAS, AND FORWARD IDEAS THROUGH US OR VENEZUELAN EMBASSY.
 3. WITH RESPECT VENEZUELAN PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, GENERAL ALFONZO EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH PRESENT LEVEL PRODUCTION AND SALES AND SAW POST-NATIONALIZATION OPERATIONS AND RELATIONSHIPS PROCEEDING "NORMALLY". ROGERS NOTED REPORTS REACHING US OF NEW BACK TAX CLAIMS AGAINST
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OIL COMPANIES AS POSSIBLY DISRUPTIVE ELEMENT APPEARING

ON SCENE. GENERAL ALFONZO NOTED OWN RECENT ABSENCE FROM

VENEZUELA AS REASON FOR RELATIVELY SCANT KNOWLEDGE
OF THIS, EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN PERSONAL INTEGRITY OF
CONTROLLER GENERAL, AND SAID WOULD NO DOUBT LEARN MUCH
MORE ON SUBJECT AFTER RETURN TO CARACAS. ROGERS
NOTED RELATIVELY "DIGNIFIED" WAY IN WHICH NATIONALIZATION
HAD BEEN EFFECTED AND HOPED ANY NEW PROBLEM COULD BE
AVOIDED.

4. IN CLOSING CONVERSATION, GENERAL ALFONZO EXPRESSED
PLEASURE OVER FEA RECENT ACTION ON ENTITLEMENTS (DETAILS
BEING SENT SEPTTEL) AND TERMED THIS AN IMPORTANT AND
FORTUNATE STEP.

5. MEMCON FOLLOWS. KISSINGER

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